NTPC's joint venture to light up Rural India

2498. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC proposes to initiate a JV project to light up rural India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of villages that would be lighted up during 2006-07 under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana; and

(d) what is the total number of villages that would be electrified in Orissa State during 2006-07 out of the above?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for setting up of Joint Venture to light up rural India.

(c) Govt. has fixed a target of electrification of 40,000 unelectrified villages under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaram Yojana (RGGVY) during 2006-07.

(d) Out of 40,000 villages targeted for electrification, Orissa's target has been set for electrification of 250 unelectrified villages under RGGVY during 2006-07.

NTPC's foray into coal mining

2499. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC is going for coal mining;

(b) whether the PSU has drawn up an action plan for developing seven coal blocks allocated to it for captive mining and the PSU is also trying to get two more captive coal blocks in Orissa for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how far will this help the Unit ensure fuel security?